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Security Council

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Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 4969th meeting of the Security Council, held on 14 May 2004, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council expresses its serious concern regarding recent reports of an incursion into the Democratic Republic of the Congo by elements of the Rwandan army,

"The Security Council further expresses its concern at the reports of increased military activities of the *Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda* (FDLR) in the Eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and of incursions made by them on the territory of Rwanda,

"The Security Council condemns in this context any impediments to the freedom of movement of MONUC and reaffirms its full support for MONUC's efforts to stabilize the situation in the Eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and encourages MONUC to continue to report to it on the military situation in the Eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in accordance with its mandate,

"The Security Council attaches great importance to respect for the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, of which it condemns any violation, as well as any violation of its relevant resolutions,

"The Security Council also attaches great importance to respect for the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of Rwanda, and condemns any incursions of armed groups into this country,

"The Security Council demands that the Government of Rwanda take measures to prevent the presence of any of its troops on the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo,

"The Security Council calls on the Governments of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda to investigate jointly, with the assistance of MONUC, the substance of recent reports on armed incursions across their mutual border,

"The Security Council further calls on both Governments to establish border security mechanisms to prevent the recurrence of such incidents,

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"The Security Council reaffirms its support for the commitments made by the Governments of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda in Pretoria, on 27 November 2003, and urges both Governments to implement expeditiously the provisions contained in the communiqué issued on that date,

"The Security Council further underlines that the disarmament and demobilization of all armed groups, including in particular the ex-*Forces armées rwandaises* (ex-FAR) and *Interahamwé* combatants, are essential to the settlement of the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and calls on the Governments of Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo to take all necessary measures to facilitate the swift and voluntary repatriation of Rwandan combatants from the Democratic Republic of the Congo,

"The Security Council encourages the Governments of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda to continue to take steps to normalize their relations, it commends, in this context, the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo for the efforts that led to the arrest of Mr. Yusufu Munyakazi, indicted, inter alia, on charges of genocide, and his subsequent transfer to the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, and it calls on all Member States to intensify efforts to arrest and transfer suspects sought by the Tribunal,

"The Security Council urges all Governments in the region to encourage the re-establishment of confidence between neighbouring countries, in accordance with the Declaration of principles on Good-Neighbourly Relations and Cooperation between the Governments of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and of Burundi and Uganda, adopted in New York, by leaders of the region, on 25 September 2003, with a view to achieving the normalization of their relations."